

## Online Survey for the Hound-Hunters and Private Landowners Stakeholder Advisory Committee

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) is committed to continuing the tradition of hunting with hounds for both wildlife management and recreational benefits. Furthermore, DWR is committed to ensuring that hunting practices are consistent with and respect the rights of private property owners. At the direction of the Board of Wildlife Resources, DWR has commenced a stakeholder engagement initiative. The goal is to reduce conflict between hound-hunters and private landowners who do not want hounds on their properties. To this end, DWR will convene a Stakeholder Advisory Committee in the near future focused on identifying collaborative solutions. As the first step, DWR is gathering information from the public through an online survey.

**We invite you to participate in this online survey. You can find a link to the survey at <https://dwr.virginia.gov/hunters-landowners-sac/>.**

All survey responses will be anonymous unless a person chooses to provide their name voluntarily. The survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. **This survey will be available until 5:00 p.m. on June 23, 2023.** In addition, we request your assistance in sharing this survey link with other hunters, landowners, and interested individuals who may wish to give input on this important issue.

This survey is not designed to be a scientific study, but rather to facilitate public input on the experiences of Virginia landowners, deer and bear hound-hunters, and other interested individuals. The study is not designed to determine the actual percentages of the experiences of all hunters and landowners.

Please note: If you previously provided comments either by email to DWR or through the comment submission form (located at the webpage listed above), those comments will be retained and reviewed, and they will inform the Stakeholder Advisory Committee process. In addition, we invite you to take the online survey.

DWR has contracted with the University of Virginia's Institute for Engagement & Negotiation (IEN) to assist with this effort. If you have questions about the survey, experience technical challenges with completing the survey, or need assistance completing the survey, please contact Kelly Altizer at [kaltizer@virginia.edu](mailto:kaltizer@virginia.edu) or 434-924-6569. If you have questions about the future Stakeholder Advisory Committee, please contact DWR at [advisorygroup@dwr.virginia.gov](mailto:advisorygroup@dwr.virginia.gov).